



# Public Service Commission of Wisconsin

Daniel R. Ebert, Chairperson  
Robert M. Garvin, Commissioner  
Mark Meyer, Commissioner

610 North Whitney Way  
P.O. Box 7854  
Madison, WI 53707-7854

Public Service Commission of Wisconsin  
RECEIVED: 09/19/06, 8:53:41 AM

September 18, 2006

Re: Application of American Transmission Company, as an Electric  
Public Utility, to Build a New 138 kV Transmission Line From the  
North Madison Substation to the Huiskamp Substation in the  
Towns of Vienna and Westport, and the Village of Waunakee,  
Dane County, WI

137-CE-139

To the Person Addressed:

This letter is for people who have recently been granted party status in the above case, and landowners whose property may be affected by the proposed construction of a transmission line between the North Madison and Huiskamp Substations being proposed by American Transmission Company LLC (ATC). It tells you how to get more information regarding the project and how to comment on the project.

To allow your comments to be considered during the preparation of the environmental assessment (EA), the date for commenting on environmental matters is extended to October 2, 2006. I am also sending this notification to people who have expressed interest in the project, including public officials. This letter goes to places where the general public may see it. If you are a county, town, or municipal clerk, please post this letter for public view.

A summary of the proposed project, a flow chart of the state's review process, and a map showing the project area with the two routes that ATC has proposed in its application are attached.

ATC has applied to the Public Service Commission of Wisconsin (PSC) for approval to construct the proposed 138 kilovolt (kV) transmission line herein described. The PSC is the state agency that regulates utilities. PSC staff reviews need for the project, alternatives, electrical design, and potential impacts to the environment. The PSC Commissioners make the final decision about these issues and others, such as what methods ATC should use to mitigate impacts.

The PSC Commissioners make their decision about a project based on the official hearing record established at the public hearing. A public hearing will be held in the project area. If you have an opinion or concern about the proposed project, you may testify at the public hearing or submit a comment to the PSC. When the hearings are scheduled, you will receive a Hearing Notice that lists the date, time and location, and schedule for the submission of comments. The Commission also holds a technical hearing that is open to the public, but if you wish to participate in that portion of the hearing you must be a "party" to the case. To become a party, please write to Administrative Law Judge Edward Marion at the PSC address shown above.

To the Person Addressed  
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## **Project Review and the Environmental Assessment**

The PSC will prepare an EA to identify environmental issues and to determine whether or not ATC's proposal requires an environmental impact statement (EIS). You have two opportunities to comment on environmental matters during EA preparation: (1) by October 2, 2006; and (2) after completion of the draft EA. At the beginning of the second comment period, you will receive a letter announcing a preliminary determination of whether or not an EIS is needed.

Persons wishing to comment on the existing environment or potential effects of this project may do so in any of the following ways: by mail addressed to Steven Fix, Public Service Commission of Wisconsin, P.O. Box 7854, Madison, WI 53707-7854; or by e-mail to [steven.fix@psc.state.wi.us](mailto:steven.fix@psc.state.wi.us). **Public comments are due by October 2, 2006.** Further, more detailed environmental information will be made part of the hearing record.

## **For More Information about ATC's Proposal or PSC Review**

Electronic files are available for public review on the PSC's Electronic Regulatory Filing (ERF) system. To find the file for this project, go to the PSC web site (<http://psc.state.gov>) and fill out the three empty boxes on the home page with the docket number for this case, 137-CE-139. You may also follow the directions for an ERF search. ATC's application is in this electronic file, or you may find paper copies at local libraries and municipal clerk's offices.

## **Commission Contact for Media**

Members of the media are urged to contact Linda Barth, PSC Director of the Office of Governmental and Public Affairs, before contacting any staff associated with this project. Ms. Barth may be reached at (608) 266-9600, or by e-mail at [linda.barth@psc.state.wi.us](mailto:linda.barth@psc.state.wi.us)

Please contact me at (608) 267-3597 or [valerie.mellerop@psc.state.wi.us](mailto:valerie.mellerop@psc.state.wi.us) if you have further questions.

Sincerely,

*/s/ Valerie C. Mellerop*

Valerie C. Mellerop  
Docket Coordinator  
Gas and Energy Division

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## **Attachments**

cc: Kathleen Zuelsdorff, PSC  
Daniel Sage, PSC  
Edward Marion, PSC

## **Summary**

### **ATC's Proposed North Madison-Huiskamp 138 kV Transmission Line Docket 137-CE-139**

#### **Proposed Project**

ATC proposes to build a new 138 kV electric transmission line between the existing North Madison Substation and the existing Huiskamp Substation. This is a distance of about 8.5 miles. The 138 kV line would be built on steel mono-pole structures. ATC would need to acquire new right-of-way easements.

#### **Project Need**

ATC reports that Dane County's electric load is growing faster than the state average, and that this is creating the need for more high-capacity electric supply. The new 138 kV transmission line would address the potential for overloading existing electric lines in the area of Waunakee and the north side of Madison. ATC states that the new line would support existing and future load growth, increase system reliability, reduce system energy losses during peak loads, improve import of power, and eliminate the need for costly pre-contingency, re-dispatch of power generation.

#### **Project Review**

Before construction may begin, ATC must receive a Certificate of Public Convenience and Necessity from the PSC and possibly also permits from the Department of Natural Resources. PSC staff is reviewing the need for the project, the potential environmental impacts, and costs. The PSC will hold a public hearing for this project.

Attached is a map showing ATC's two proposed routes. The Commission may choose either route or modify or deny ATC's application.

This is a Type II action under Wis. Admin. Code § PSC 4.10(2). Type II projects require the preparation of an EA to identify environmental issues and determine whether an EIS is needed under Wis. Stat. § 1.11. Whether or not an EIS is prepared, environmental information will be provided at the hearing.

#### **PSC Public Hearings**

The ATC has held public information meetings in the project area. These are not public hearings. If you wish your concerns to be heard by the Commissioners, you must speak or enter a written statement at the hearings, or submit electronic comments through the PSC website during the formal comment time period. The PSC Commissioners will decide on need, route, and other issues based on transcripts taken at the hearings.

## **Contacts for More Information**

### ***Public Service Commission of Wisconsin***

610 North Whitney Way  
P.O. Box 7854  
Madison, WI 53707-7854  
<http://psc.wi.gov>

### ***PSC Contacts:***

Valerie Mellerop, Docket Coordinator, (608) 267-3597, [valerie.mellerop@psc.state.wi.us](mailto:valerie.mellerop@psc.state.wi.us)  
Steven Fix, Environmental Analyst, (608) 267-9197, [steven.fix@psc.state.wi.us](mailto:steven.fix@psc.state.wi.us)  
Donald Neumeyer, Engineer, (608) 267-9304, [donald.neumeyer@psc.state.wi.us](mailto:donald.neumeyer@psc.state.wi.us)  
Diane Ramthun, Assistant General Counsel, (608) 267-9203, [diane.ramthun@psc.state.wi.us](mailto:diane.ramthun@psc.state.wi.us)

### ***PSC Media Contact:***

Linda Barth, Director of Governmental and Public Affairs, (608) 266-9600,  
[linda.barth@psc.state.wi.us](mailto:linda.barth@psc.state.wi.us)

### ***American Transmission Company LLC***

2 Fen Oak Court  
Madison, WI 53718-8810

### ***ATC Contact:***

Glenn Zimmerman, Project Manager, (608) 877-3665, [gzimmerman@atcllc.com](mailto:gzimmerman@atcllc.com)



# PUBLIC SERVICE COMMISSION Application Review Process

Utility Public Information Meetings  
Several public information meetings organized and **sponsored by the utility** to obtain public input prior to submitting a project application.

**YOU ARE  
HERE**

Utility Submits Application  
An application is submitted to the PSC **and** the PSC mails copies to all city, town, and village clerks in the project area, and to the public libraries in the affected counties.

PSC Public Notification Letter  
Letter notifies public that the review process is beginning. Mailed to property owners, government officials, libraries, media, and other interested agencies and individuals.

PSC Comment Period  
The public is encouraged to submit comments regarding the environmental impacts of the project. Public comments are reflected in the Environmental Assessment.

Environmental Assessment  
The PSC completes an Environmental Assessment which reviews environmental issues and determines if an EIS is required.

PSC Determines if an EIS  
Is Required  
Public has 15 days to comment on the PSC finding.

Public Hearing  
A public hearing is held near the proposed site. The public may participate and give testimony regarding the impacts of the proposed project. The testimony presented becomes part of the record used by the Commission in making its decision.

Public Service Commission  
Decision  
The Commission makes a final decision to approve, modify, or deny the project. Commission meetings are open to the public for observation.

Public Service Commission  
Issues an Order\*  
The Commission's decision is described in a written order to the applicant.

## How to Get Involved

- Read the Notification
- Attend Meetings
- Verify That You Are on the PSC and Utility's Mailing Lists
- Review the Application
- Ask Questions of the PSC, the Utility, and the DNR
- Submit Comments
- Testify at the Hearing

## Where to Find Information

- In PSC letters
- At Utility and PSC Public Meetings
- At the PSC Web Site <http://psc.wi.gov>
- At Local Libraries
- At Local Government and Clerks' Offices

\* The applicants must obtain federal, state and local permits prior to beginning construction of any project approved by the Commission.

North Madison to Huisikamp  
Proposed Transmission Line Routes  
PSC Docket 137-CE-139

Attachment 3

